THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal for setting up of a cable car at Shravanabelgola in Karnataka has been objected to by the Archaeological Survey of India on the grounds that its operation is bound to cause vibration which may not only threaten the structural stability of the hill and the monument but also affect the view and the ambience of the site. As such ASI has not accorded permission to the requests of the Government of Karnataka.

Protection of monuments

1604. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officially protected monuments presently in the country;

(b) the number of each of them which have been declared World Heritage Sites;

(c) whether Government are taking special steps to upgrade the areas around all World Heritage Sites;

(d) the fund spent in such upgradation, protection and beautification of all World Heritage Sites in 2004-05; and

(e) the details of places where the funds were spent in the last fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 3667 Centrally protected monuments in the country.

(b) Out of 3667 Centrally protected monuments, 18 monuments have been declared as World Heritage Sites.

(c) to (e) All efforts are being made to conserve and preserve the World Heritage Sites in the best possible manner and to upgrade their environment. Tourist amenities like toilets, drinking water facilities, ramps and wheel chairs for the disabled visitors have been provided at the World Heritage Sites. Besides, lawns and gardens have been developed wherever possible. ASI has also taken a programme for preparation of integrated site management plans for the World Heritage Sites. The expenditure incurred during 2004-05 on each of the World Heritage Sites towards structural conservation chemical preservation and environmental development is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Expenditure on World Heritage Monuments protected by ASI during 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Site	Expenditure incurred
1.	Ajanta Caves	110.74
2.	Ellora Caves	72.92
3.	Agra Fort	219.38
4.	Taj Mahal	145.19
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak	54.73
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram	62.35
7.	Churches and Convents of Goa	84.21
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho	42.40
9.	Group of monuments at Hampi	180.60
10.	Group of monuments at Fatehpur Sikri	145.92
11.	Group of temples, Pattadakal	27.28
12.	Elephanta Caves	21.73
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram	70.57
14.	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi	12.18
15.	Humayun Tomb, Delhi	85.88
16.	Qutub Minar Complex, Delhi	33.22
17.	Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka	7.67
18.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park	22.79
	TOTAL:	1,399.76

Restoration of stolen sculptures

1605. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vintage sculptures from Indian temples and historic monuments are being stolen and sold to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years;